GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3094
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
GRANTS TO COW TENDING CENTRES FOR BIO FERTILIZERS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to promote use of bio-fertilizers;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide grants to Cow-tending centres in order to promote the use of bio-fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are making any efforts to minimize the use of urea; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Government is promoting use of Bio-fertilizers under the Central Sector Scheme`National project on development and use of Bio-fertilizers`. Under this scheme non-recurring grant upto Rs.20.00 lakhs is given for setting up of Bio-fertilizers production units upto 150 tonnes capacity per year by State Agro-industries/Corporations/Cooperatives/Public Sector undertakings of fertilizers, NGOs and private entrepreneurs. Also under the scheme promotion and Extension of Bio-fertilizers is being undertaken extensively. Presently there are 83 Bio- fertilizers production units, which are being set up with Government assistance besides there are 39 Units under private sector making a total of 122 units with annual capacity of 18500 metric tonnes.

(b)to(d): Bio fertilizers being microbial inoculants are produced only in sterilized conditions, which is not possible in Cow-Tending Centres. However, they can separately set up bio-fertilizers production unit or vermin-culture unit for which financial assistance is available.

(e)&(f): The Government is promoting Soil Test based balanced and integrated use of nutrients comprising fertilizers including Micro-nutrients, Organic Manures and Bio-fertilizers to minimize the use of Chemical fertilizers including Urea. Further financial support is being given to decontrolled phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers so as to increase their consumption.